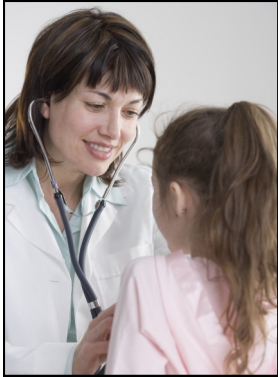


General Safety Guidelines

Other than lead-safe work practices, there are some simple day-to-day tasks you can do that can reduce your child's risk of lead poisoning.



- Regularly clean floors, windowsills and other surfaces.
- Wash children's toys, bottles, pacifiers, and hands often.
- Take off shoes before entering the house to avoid tracking in lead from the soil.
- Be sure that your children eat a healthy, nutritious diet consistent with the USDA's dietary guidelines to help protect them from the effects of lead.

A simple blood test is needed to find an elevated blood lead level (EBL). Catching an EBL early is key to preventing permanent damage.

If your child is between the ages of 6 months and 6 years, have him or her tested for lead poisoning. Often, symptoms of lead poisoning do not show up until the child's blood lead level is very high and the damage is irreversible. Contact your healthcare provider or local public health agency to get a blood lead test.

How Can I Protect My Family?

Lead is poisonous when swallowed or inhaled. Lead dust particles are often so small, they cannot be seen entering the body. Though lead may affect adults, it is most harmful to children and pregnant women. Lead can affect a child's brain and developing nervous system causing reduced IQ, learning disabilities, and behavioral problems. Children have a higher exposure risk because they are much more likely to put their hands in their mouths while eating and playing.

Before disturbing a painted surface, you should test for lead. For information about lead testing, call the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Lead Licensing Program at 1-888-837-0927. If lead-based paint is discovered, it is recommended to have your remodeling completed by a licensed lead abatement contractor. If you choose to do your own home repair projects, it is important to assume lead is present and use lead-safe work practices. Contact DHSS or EPA for reference handbooks with lead-safe directions for specific home projects.

The Danger of Lead and Renovation

What does remodeling have to do with lead poisoning?

Any home or apartment built before 1978 may have surfaces that are painted with lead-based paint. Home renovation projects such as sanding, cutting and demolition can create hazardous lead dust and chips. Lead in dust is the most common source of exposure and can accumulate to unsafe levels. The invisible lead dust particles can be breathed into the body and may also accumulate on toys or surfaces that children chew on or play near. Remember these three safety tips:

Work Safe- Avoid exposing your family to lead, especially your children.

Work Clean- Keep everything within the work area clean and as free of lead dust as possible.

Work Wet- You can't eliminate dust, but there are ways to reduce it. Wet sanding or scraping can lessen the dust produced.

For more information on contacting a lead inspector or other ways to work safely, contact:

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
P.O. Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65109
(573) 751-6102 or toll free (866) 628-9891

Lead Aware Before you Repair!

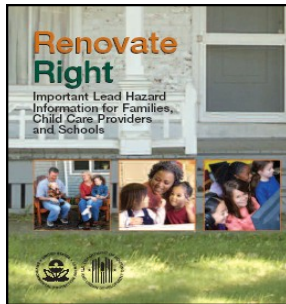


A few simple precautions can be the key to protecting your family from lead poisoning.

-Work Clean
-Work Wet
-Work Safe

Before you start to work:

- Check in advance for the presence of lead by contacting a licensed lead contractor. A list can be found at http://www.dhss.mo.gov/Lead/AbatementContractorsReport_1.html. You should consider hiring a licensed lead abatement contractor. It may also be helpful to obtain an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) book about proper lead-safe work practices from their website: <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/lead/pubs/renovation.htm>



EPA offers books with information about lead safe work practices.

- Bring all items that you will need into the work area with you. This includes equipment, cleaning supplies and a high-efficiency particulate air filter (HEPA) vacuum for after work clean-up.
- Move all items and furniture out of the work area, especially toys or things that children may handle.

- Fill some spray bottles with water, or get cloths and water to wet small areas before working. Do this in advance; you will not want to leave the work area once work has begun to prevent tracking lead dust into clean areas of the home.
- Cover floors and furniture you cannot move with disposable plastic sheeting to catch all loose lead dust. Always throw sheeting away when the job is complete. Do not reuse the plastic for another job.

While working:

- Keep windows closed and turn the heat/air off.
- Cover the heat/air vents with plastic sheeting and secure with duct tape to prevent lead dust from settling in the air ducts and spreading through the home when the air is turned on.
- Wear protective clothing that can be thrown away when the work is complete, such as painter coveralls.
- Wear a respirator mask with a HEPA filter to avoid breathing in lead dust.



Windows should remain shut to prevent spread of lead dust.

- Use a sander with a vacuum attachment connected to a HEPA filter.
- Mist areas with water or wet wipe them before scraping or sanding.



Dry sanding produces large amounts of dust. Sanders may be purchased with vacuum connections to prevent spread of lead dust in the air.

- It's better to use chemical stripper if working with intact paint. Follow directions on the container for safety.
- Never eat, smoke or drink in the work area. You may breathe in or swallow lead dust that is on your hands or in the air.
- Keep all family members/non workers out of the area, especially children and pregnant women.

After work is completed:

- Always remove shoes and change clothes before leaving the area.
- Wash work clothes separately from other laundry.



You must wash your hands with soap and water after working even if they appear clean. Lead dust can be impossible to see.

- Wash exposed areas with water, a detergent, and disposable cloths.
- Remove plastic carefully so debris and dust stay on the plastic. Wrap the plastic inwards and duct tape shut.
- HEPA vacuum the area, wash with detergent, rinse and then HEPA vacuum again. Also HEPA vacuum clothing.
- Pour water used to clean-up dust into the toilet and flush. Never dump water into the yard to avoid lead contamination of the soil.
- Always wash your hands to ensure that all unseen lead dust is removed.
- Have work areas and surrounding areas tested for lead. Lead dust can easily spread, so it is important to check places where your children may spend their time.